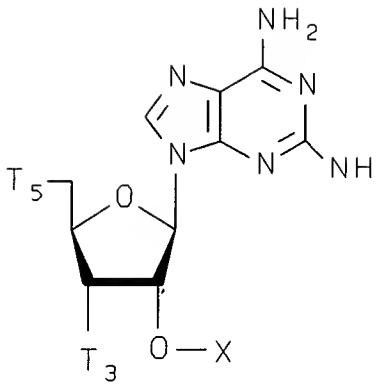
R_1 is [C_1-C_{20}] C_3-C_{20} alkyl, [C_2-C_{20}] C_4-C_{20} alkenyl, or C_2-C_{20} alkynyl and n is 0; or R_1 is C_1-C_{20} alkyl, C_2-C_{20} alkenyl, or C_2-C_{20} alkynyl and n is 1 to about 6;

R_2 is halogen, hydroxyl, thiol, keto, carboxyl, nitro, nitroso, nitrile, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, O-alkyl, S-alkyl, NH-alkyl, N-dialkyl, O-aryl, S-aryl, NH-aryl, O-aralkyl, S-aralkyl, NH-aralkyl, amino, imidazole, N-phthalimido, azido, hydrazino, hydroxylamino, isocyanato, sulfoxide, sulfone, sulfide, disulfide, silyl, aryl, heterocycle, carbocycle, intercalator, reporter molecule, conjugate, polyamine, polyamide, polyalkylene glycol, polyether, a group that enhances the pharmacodynamic properties of oligonucleotides, or a group that enhances the pharmacokinetic properties of oligonucleotides; and

either one of T_3 and T_5 is OH, a hydroxyl blocking group, phosphate or an activated phosphate group and the other of T_3 and T_5 is a nucleotide [further subunit of said oligomer,] or both T_3 and T_5 are nucleotides; [a further subunit of said oligomer; and

n is an integer from 0 to about 6].

10. (Twice Amended) A compound [An oligomer comprising at least one subunit] having the structure:



wherein X is R_1-$(R_2)_n$;

R_1 is C_1-C_{20} alkyl, C_4-C_{20} alkenyl, or C_2-C_{20} alkynyl; R_2 is halogen, hydroxyl, thiol, keto, carboxyl, nitro, nitroso, nitrile, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, O-alkyl, S-alkyl, NH-alkyl, N-dialkyl, O-aryl, S-aryl, NH-aryl, O-aralkyl, S-aralkyl, NH-aralkyl, amino, imidazole, N-phthalimido, azido, hydrazino, hydroxylamino, isocyanato, sulfoxide, sulfone, sulfide, disulfide, silyl, aryl, heterocycle, carbocycle, intercalator, reporter molecule, conjugate, polyamine, polyamide, polyalkylene glycol, polyether, a group that enhances the pharmacodynamic properties of oligonucleotides, or a group that enhances the pharmacokinetic properties of oligonucleotides;

either one of T_3 and T_5 is OH, a hydroxyl blocking group, phosphate or an activated phosphate group and the other of T_3 and T_5 is a nucleotide [further subunit of said oligomer], or both T_3 and T_5 are nucleotides; [a further subunit of said oligomer;] and

n is an integer from 0 to about 6.